GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015
CLEARANCE OF PROJECTS IN BORDER AREAS
Hari Shri G.;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a simplified procedure giving the concerned State Governments the mandate to clear key projects along the international borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether environmental/forest clearances for highways in border States and diversion of forest land for border security related infrastructure within 5 kms. of international border will now be given by the State Governments and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of proposals for highway projects received for grant of clearances during each of the last three years and the current year along with the present status of such projects, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE. (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 300 FOR 17.03.2015 REGARDING "CLEARANCE OF PROJECTS IN BORDER AREAS" BY SHRI G. HARI, SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

(a) to (c) The Ministry has taken measures in order to facilitate creation of requisite road network along the Border Areas which include the following:

i. An amendment to EIA Notification 2006 dated 03.02.2015 was made so as to exempt all highway projects in border States from scoping requirement and exempt all linear projects in border States from the requirement of public hearing subject to suitable conditions prescribed by the Ministry.

ii.Decided to accord general approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for construction and widening of two lane roads by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) and other road construction agencies entrusted with the job by the Ministry of Defence, in the area falling within 100 kilometers aerial distance from the LAC and widening of roads (by the BRO and other road construction agencies) which are identified by the Ministry of Defence as link roads, between Border roads in the area within 100 kilometer aerial distance from the LAC and National Highways/State Highways/Other State Roads. This general approval has been extended for diversion of forest land, if any, required for construction of similar roads for Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) within 100 kilometer aerial distance from the LAC, for which funds are provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Similarly, with a view to expidite creation of strategic infrastructure along the international Bord er, the Ministry decided to accord general approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for creation of border security related infrastructure such as, Border Roads, Fencing, Border Outposts, Floodlights, Surveillance Infrastructure, and Power Infrastructure, within five kilometres aerial distance from the International Border by paramilitary organizations of the Ministry of Home Affairs, such as Border Security Force (BSF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) from funds provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(d) The State-wise status of proposals for highway projects received for grant of clearances during last three years is at Annexure-I.